



Summary report of STARS participation – July 1, 2010- September 30, 2010

Vermont's Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) experienced a change in administration and coordination during this quarter. After many years of supporting the creation and administering the STARS system, Deb Curtis worked with new coordinators, Johanna Vaczy and LouAnn Beninati to transition the system from Learning Partners to Mary Johnson Children's Center. Through this smooth transition STARS was able to continue to support ,without a lapse, engaging regulated child care, early education and school age programs in achieving standards that are associated with better outcomes for children, families and the professionals who work with them.

One of the results of the transition from Learning Partners to Mary Johnson Children's Center was some inconsistency in the data being collected. As data was sorted and added, information has been shifted from category to category. This inconsistency has been identified, corrected and is being addressed. As the data is reviewed and validated for future use, this report will be limited to data that has been checked for accuracy.

Number of programs processed from arrival through certification, July 2010 through September 2010.

(a number of programs were processed in July but arrived from program in June)

Licensed Centers	56
Registered Homes	46
Licensed Homes	1
Head Start	3
School Age	9
Public School	39
Total	154

Number of incomplete applications that arrived during this period and that are waiting for additional information.

Licensed Centers	3
Registered Homes	2
Public School	5
Total	10

Number of applicants new to STARS

Licensed Centers	10
Registered Homes	9
Head Start	0
School Age	0
Public School	7
Total	26

Rate of incoming applications during the quarter compared to 2009

July 2010	36	July 2009	27
August 2010	35	August 2009	25
September 2010	46	September 2009	26

Number of Stars achieved

5 Stars	32
4 Stars	62
3 Stars	35
2 Stars	10
1 Star	12
Total	151

26 renewal programs increased star level from previous year

Number of Programs that sent in applications (both new and renewal) from each AHS District during the quarter

Franklin / Grand Isle	12
Chittenden	12
Hartford/ White River Jct.	0
Caledonia	3
Windham	14
Washington	19
Orleans	11
Rutland	15
Windsor	3
Bennington	8
Lamoille	5
Addison	12
Total	114

STARS Outreach during Quarter

Stars Trainings- 2

Individual meetings with providers- 3

Collaborative Meetings- 5

In summary, the transition of STARS from Learning Partners to Mary Johnson Children's Center was accomplished with a minimum of problems. Understandably with such a large change minor issues did occur, but without any lapse of service to providers. Numbers show that a considerably higher number of applications were sent in to be processed in comparison to last year. Providers comments show that the relatively quick turnaround of the applications, from being mailed to MJCC to hearing back from the coordinators, is appreciated. The learning curve on the part of the coordinators has been steep and has been traveled quickly during the few months. The well organized system developed by previous administrators and the support of Deb Curtis, Jan Walker, Linda Clark, as well as others has ensured the stable continuation of STARS.

Respectfully submitted,

LouAnn Beninati and Johanna Vaczy